Message Text

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62.

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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R 270830Z MAR 74 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 121 INFO USLO PEKING AMEMBASSY TAIPEI AMEMBASSY TOKYO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CONFIDENTIAL HONG KONG 3432

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: APPEAL TO XENOPHOBIA?

REF: HONG KONG 3307

1. FORCES INVOLVED IN THE PRC'S INTERNAL POLITICAL MOVEMENT SEEM TO BE PLAYING AROUND WITH LATENT CHINESE XENOPHOBIA. RADIO REPORTS OF PROVINCIAL RALLIES TO RECALL PAST IMPERIALIST ATROCITIES AGAINST THE CHINESE PEOPLE CONTINUE TO APPEAR. NONE HAVE MATCHED YUNNAN'S EVOKING OF GHOULISH BOXER SUPERSTITUTIONS ABOUT BABE-EATING (REFTEL), BUT A MARCH 21 FUKIEN RALLY AT A CHILDREN'S MASS GRAVESITE ADDS TO THE IMPRESSION OF AN APPEAL MADE TO PRIMORDIAL EMOTIONS.

2. THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF THESE ACTIVITIES IS TO BRING HOME TO THE MASSES WHAT LIN PIAO WOULD HAVE INFLICTED ON THE CHINESE PEOPLE IF HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN HIS ALLEGED AIM OF BRINGING THE

SOVIETS IN AS NEW COLONIAL MASTERS. HOWEVER, TO DATE THE REPORTED CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTIVITIES HAVE FOCUSED ON ATROCITIES BY THE "US-CHIANG

CLIQUE" AND THE JAPANESE, OR THOSE OF UNSPECIFIED "IMPERIALISTS." NO OTHER NATIONAL ENTITIES INCLUDING TZARIST RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM HAVE BEEN MENTIONED BY NAME, ALTHOUGH THUS FAR WE HAVE ONLY HEARD OF RALLIES IN THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF CHINA. (THE ACTIVITY COULD BE HEARED TO SPRING PLANTING WHICH IS UNDERWAY IN THE SOUTH, AND MAY MOVE NORTH LATER.)

3. COMMENT. WE SPECULATE THAT ACTIVITIES TO RECALL FOREIGN ATROCITIES COULD REFLECT THE FAILURE OF THE MOVEMENT TO AROUSE MASS ENTHUSIASM. LOW LEVEL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THUS FAR INDICATE THAT THE CAMPAIGN HAS DISINTERESTED THE BULK OF THE PEOPLE, THOSE BELOW THE LEVEL OF THE POLITICALLY SOPHISTICATED AND INVOLVED CADRE AND INTELLIGENTSIA. IN THIS VIEW, PLAYING WITH XENOPHOBIA WOULD BE AN ATTEMPT TO GET THE MASSES EMOTIONALLY ENGAGED. THE ACTIVITY IS DISCONCERTING, PARTICULARLY WITH THE US AND JAPAN BEING SINGLED OUT, BUT THE RALLIES THUS FAR HAVE NOT BEEN TREATED AS MAJOR EVENTS AND WE HAVE NOT SEEN A REFLECTION OF THEM IN THE CENTRAL MEDIA. CROSS

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